

Constitution Day

This page was created to provide K-12 teachers and schools with resources for the implementation of Constitution Day activities and lessons.

Pursuant to legislation passed by Congress, educational institutions receiving Federal funding are required to hold an educational program pertaining to the United States Constitution on September 17 of each year. This Congressional initiative is authorized by Section 111 of Division J of Pub. L. 108-447, the ``Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005," Dec. 8, 2004; 118 Stat. 2809, 3344-45 (Section 111).

Section 111(b) states ``[e]ach educational institution that receives Federal funds for a fiscal year shall hold an educational program on the United States Constitution on September 17 of such year for the students served by the educational institution."

Section 111 requires that Constitution Day be held on September 17 of each year, commemorating the September 17, 1787 signing of the Constitution. However, when September 17 falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, Constitution Day shall be held during the preceding or following week.

The National Archives: Observing Constitution Day

This site contains links to numerous sources of information, activities, simulations, and lessons concerning the Constitution.

The National Archives: The Constitution

This site provides a transcript of the document, as well as imagery of the document itself.

Constitution Day, Inc.

This site provides a great deal of background information, as well as educational materials for study.

The Library of Congress: Continental Congress and Constitutional Convention Documents

This site provides access to the Constitutional Convention documents, as well as a number of educational resources.

The National Constitution Center

This is an outstanding site for exploring the Constitution. It offers many hands-on activities for learning about the Constitution and how it relates to our daily lives.

White House Kids: Constitution

This site contains links to Constitution facts, quizzes, and other resources.

MarcoPolo--Celebrating Constitution Day MarcoPolo has rounded up some of their newest and most compelling lessons on the U.S. Constitution, its architects, its meaning and its magnitude in this month's *MarcoGram*. Use the activities below to get your students thinking about how the Constitution affects all American citizens, then scroll down for more links and resources on this topic. Plus, visit **EDSITEment** for a full-page feature on the Constitution, with lessons and activities for all grade levels.

Junior Achievement--The Constitution JA Worldwide has developed five lesson plans on the U.S. Constitution that can be downloaded and used in conjunction with Constitution Day. In addition, three of these lessons are scheduled to be published in the September issue of the National Council for the Social Studies publication, *Social Education*.

Center for Civic Education--Constitution Day Lessons

The Center for Civic Education is a nonprofit, nonpartisan educational corporation dedicated to fostering the development of informed, responsible participation in civic life by citizens committed to the values and principles fundamental to American constitutional democracy. The Center offers a wide range of curricular materials, teacher trainings, community-based programs, and other free resources including the National Standards for Civics & Government.

Student Voices

A rich set of teaching aids on the Constitution helps educators and government employees meet the requirement of the Byrd Amendment to provide materials on the U.S. Constitution for Constitution Day (September 17). Educators can find award-winning films and supplementary lesson plans; “Ask a Supreme Court Justice,” featuring answers from Supreme Court Justices to high school students’ questions about American democratic institutions; state standards-aligned curricula; in-depth analysis by constitutional scholars and legal experts; downloadable reference books; and multimedia programs and games.

Also, Student Voices, our nonprofit / nonpartisan civics engagement program, teaches students how government works, how government affects their lives and how they in turn can influence government. Classes can explore topics on our interactive website, or take a more hands-on approach through our highly flexible, two-part curriculum.